

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 are all the claims pending in the application. New claims 2-4 have been added to further define the invention. Reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Finality of Office Action

Although the form PTOL-326 indicates that the Office Action is “Final”, the body of the Office Action does not so indicate, and this is a first Office Action in the continuation application. Accordingly, the PTOL-326 is believed to be in error, and Applicant respectfully requests that this Amendment be entered as a matter of right as under 37 C.F.R. §111.

Specification

The Examiner requested that Applicant update the status of 09/789,846 as cited in the specification. Accordingly, Applicants have amended the specification to update the status of this cited application.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner rejected claim 1 under §103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese provisional patent 7-164809 (hereinafter JP ‘809). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection because JP ‘809 fails to teach or suggest all of the elements as set forth and arranged in the claim.

According to JP ‘809, if there is only a groove, it is possible to avoid deformation of a flange surface. However, Applicant has found that the use of only a groove is insufficient to avoid deformation, but that a groove and the order of processing are important.

If a flange surface is processed after a bearing is mounted, metal filings formed during the process attach on various portions of the bearing, and it is very hard to remove the metal filings. Further, the metal filings may hurt a rubber seal. On the contrary, as in the presently claimed invention, if a flange surface is processed before a bearing is mounted—i.e., before rolling members are mounted—even if metal filings are flown by an air blower or are washed by

an oil, no problem is caused. Because JP '809 does not suggest when a flange is processed, the present invention is not rendered obvious by JP '809


Conclusion

New claims 2-4 have been added to further define the invention. Claims 2-4 recite a method of forming a bearing unit, wherein a mounting surface is formed into a predetermined flat shape after mounting studs are press-fitted into mounting holes, but before a rolling member is mounted. At least this feature is not disclosed, taught or suggested in JP '809.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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